

**John Connolly to George Washington, May 28, 1774,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM DOCTOR JOHN CONNOLLY. ¹

FORT DUNMORE may 28th. 177 [mutilated]

DR. SIR/

The infinite confusion into which this country [mutilated] by our disagreement with the indians, has heretfore put it on [mutilated] power to continue a desirable correspondence with you, but [mutilated] importance of the Subject urges, and your interest may be par [mutilated] servicable; together with the pleasure I feel in maintaining an [mutilated] ctive intercourse with you, I snatch this moment to write [mutilated]

I have accq acquainted his Excellency Lord dunmore [mutilated] my Oppinion of matters here, in a concise manner; and oft [mutilated] which I judg'd necessary toward the advantage of this promi [mutilated] Settlement; & in order to evince the propriety of my argument [mutilated] transmitted a Coppy of my Journal Since the beginning of ou [mutilated] with the natives, which I apprehend his Lordship will lay [mutilated] the Honourable House – —

The Shawanese (Sir) have long since looked upon [mutilated] Commencing Settlements down the Ohio with a most jeal [mutilated] and have Frequently express'd their disapprobation—as they [mutilated] Remarkable for a haughty, violent & unthinking tribe; they [mutilated] latterly committed many Robberies & Murders upon different [mutilated]

Library of Congress

going down the River, and their impertinent answer to ou [mutilated] lence message² sent to them by the Delawares in consequen [mutilated] what had happened to their people, together with their di [mutilated] perations for open Hostillities convinces me that chastise [mutilated] will ever prevail upon them to admit of a peacable Sit [mutilated] at the Kanhawa—If the Government mean to encourage [mutilated] ration down the River, so much coveted by people in Gen [mutilated] Stockade Fort at the Kanhawa is absolutely necessary to pr [mutilated] adventurers & prevent the Frequent interruptions to the cultiv [mutilated] the country, which otherwise inevitably will be the case [mutilated] distance from the Kanhawa across to the Kiscapoux Shaw [mutilated] is but inconsiderable it will constantly overawe them, [mutilated] that from thence, inroads may be expeditiously made into [mutilated] Country, & every purpose we may desire effectually accom [mutilated] as to the expence, I humbly presume it will be but Trifling for the Garrison might be defended by the Militia of the country who would undoubtedly fly there on every emergency – I also conceive (Sir) the [mutilated] Shawanese ought upon this occasion to be thoroughly chastised and convinced [mutilated] their insignificancy, which will in the first place prove exemplary to [mutilated] Contiguous Neighbours, and in the next place it will clearly point to [mutilated] that half doing nothing matters of this nature with Indians can never answer any Salutary purpose, for, had the Shawanese been so much under our Frowns Power as the Delawar's were, when Col: Bouquet marched into their country, their Language would not had have been so haughty to day, but on [mutilated] contrary would have been consonant to the tone of their more peacable [mutilated] ghbours. as I expect nothing but a war with them so i flatter my [mutilated] they may be convinced to their Sorrow, that their Rashness will Su [mutilated] punish them in drawing our just Resentment upon them, I have [mutilated] the Begining of this dispute worked with never ceasing hurry at [mutilated] place & now have it in a good posture of defence, so that for this Spot, I fear [mutilated] thing, but my heart melts for the distress of the people, who fly, in dire [mutilated] abandoning all their promising hopes—We have great numbes here, and I do Everything in my Power to comfort them, but the [mutilated] ing difficultys under which we Labour prevent me from giving [mutilated] the aid and comfort I could wish to afford. I have

Library of Congress

drawn together [mutilated] day one Hundred active men & ordered them to march down to whee [mutilated] Keeping near the River, so that they might be enabled to discovery any [mutilated] ts leading into the country, and I am in Great hopes they may [mutilated] nately meet Some of the Shawanese parties and defeat them, for [mutilated] the first impression made, greatly depends our Success toward a [mutilated] accommodation with the other Nations; a hint of which I gave all [mutilated] Officers of militia—I cannot conclude without assuring you that [mutilated] Government of Virginia having taken place at this critical [mutilated] has been the Sole preservative of the country, otherwise I [mutilated] imagine the whole Settlement must have been abandoned —

I am with much Regard Dr Sir Your most Obedt. Servt.

1 This letter without a signature, and written in another hand, appears to have been dictated by Connolly.

2 The Shawanese then delivered the following Answer to the Condolence Speeches and Message sent them:

— “Brothers: (Captain Connolly, Mr. McKee, and Mr. Croghan,) We have received your Speeches by White Eyes, and as to what Mr. Croghan and Mr. McKee says, we look upon it all to be lies, and perhaps what you say may be lies also, but as it is the first time you have spoke to us we listen to you, and expect that what we may hear from you will be more confined to truth than what we usually hear from the white people. It is you who are frequently passing up and down the Ohio, and making settlements upon it, and as you have informed as that your wise people have met together to consult upon this matter, we desire you to be strong and consider it well. Brethren: We see you speak to us at the head of your warriors, who you have collected together at sundry places upon this river, where we understand they are building forts, and as you have requested us to listen to you, we will do it, but in the same manner that you appear to speak to us. Our people at the Lower Towns have no Chiefs among them, but are all warriors, and are also preparing themselves to be in readiness, that they may be better able to hear what you have to say. “You tell us not to take any notice of what your people have done to us; we desire you likewise not to take any notice of what our young men may now be doing, and as no doubt you can command your warriors when you desire them to listen to you, we have reason to expect that ours will take the same advice when we require it, that is, when we have heard from the Governour of Virginia.”—American Archives, Fourth Series, Vol. 2. p. 479.